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THE COLLEGE VOICE

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

Volume XVIII, Number 18

Ad Fontes

APRIL 11, 1995

Homophobic graffiti discovered on campus

BY MICHELLE RONAYNE
A&E Editor

Several weeks ago, homophobic graffiti was discovered on campus. There were two separate incidents, one in which, Mark Hoffman, director of student activities and manager of the college center, was the target.

In response to both instances, Dean Ferrari, Acting Dean of the College, sent out a bulletin broadcast message that condemned the act as well as announced a meeting that urged anyone interested to attend and discuss the matter.

In both cases, concerned students

and faculty expressed their views regarding the matter during the open meetings. "I think everyone here recognizes the commonality of all oppression," said Dean Ferrari at the outset of the first meeting.

Hoffman expressed his gratitude to the Student Life office for their support.

Later on, he expressed different sentiments. "For me, when I found out, my first thought was 'whatever' and then three hours later I started to think 'I'm really pissed off'," said Hoffman.

In the college's five year strategic plan there is the suggestion of forming a committee to look into issues of sexual orientation. "It

might be really nice to have the committee formed this semester instead of at the end of the strategic plan in 1999," said Hoffman.

People questioned what would really happen when someone is harassed for their sexual orientation. "People aren't going to shrug it off, not while I'm the dean," said Ferrari. In the non-discrimination policy it protects homosexuals from these types of attacks from being discriminated against. In addition, the Dean's Task Force was created to develop an appropriate protocol for dealing with these issues.

There was also some discussion of the lack of another voice. "People on the opposite side of our views don't have a voice," said Brian Ragsdale, former Menton Programs Coordinator. There was some discussion as how to best educate others and get those with opposite views to express them.

"What I grapple about at this school is that we don't want people to keep this inside, but we don't want people to walk up to gay people and say 'I hate you, you're gay,'" said senior Catherine Lippman.

Chris Teague, coordinator of

Sexual Orientations United for Liberation, believes that the college has done some positive things in replying to the graffiti but a couple of open meetings are not enough. "I don't think a couple of meetings will solve the problem... it is really just skimming the surface," said Teague.

"I believe there is a fear that does pervade this campus," added Teague. He thinks that people become fearful of saying things.

"While I do feel that the person that did this [probably] trying to be rebellious or get attention, it was also indicative of a larger problem and they feel that they are not allowed to speak," said Teague.

He feels that it is both positive and negative that people don't speak. It is good because he can feel safe as a gay man. "It is good to feel safe here as a gay man, knowing that I will not be called a 'fag' but at the same time I would like [the opportunity] to confront a homophobic person," explained Teague. He also believes that the atmosphere of fear causes people's views to come out in the form of graffiti.

Teague explained that it is a dif-

ficult thing to get homophobic, racist or sexist individuals to express their opposing views. "There is a huge amount of Political Correctness on campus," said Teague. He also explained that this made people feel that they could not say something without fear of repercussion.

S.O.U.L. is hoping to raise campus awareness of Gay/Bi-Sexual/Lesbian issues. They have had some social activities to let people know that they are out there. As this organization just got off the ground they are looking ahead to the future and planning for next semester. One idea that they have is for a panel discussion where they would invite both openly homophobic individuals as well as gay rights activists in an effort to open up discussion of both points of views.

"The administration [did] what they could at the time and next year's annual theme of diversity is also a great start," said Teague. He believes it is important for the administrators to realize more needs to be done.

"Students have to play a large part in the process and must work to open channels," said Teague.

Student frustrated over study abroad changes

BY APRIL ONDIS
Editor in Chief

Changes to the study away program being proposed this year by Alex Hybel, dean of national and international programs, have met with both confusion and opposition from the student body.

Hybel spoke to the Student Government Association Assembly at its first meeting this semester to explain the need to change the way students currently pay for study away programs. He explained that, rather than pay tuition directly to the program they study away at, students would now pay full tuition to the college, and, in turn, the college would pay the tuition to the other institution. Under his proposal, students would begin paying Conn tuition when they study away beginning with the spring semester of 1996.

Many students expressed reluctance to accept the decision to pay full tuition to the college, saying that programs and tuition at many foreign institutions is significantly lower than Connecticut College tuition, and that the cost of tuition at study away programs is a significant factor in students' decision to study away. Some students also indicated that imposing the change in the spring of 1996, an action which would split the policy of payment for members of one class, would be inappropriate. Marinell Yoders, SGA president, said that she presented the students' opposition to the administration, and that senior administrators said they would review the policy.

Lynn Brooks, vice president for finance, explained that the policy recently adopted by the faculty to allow students' financial aid to travel

with them when they study away, a policy which will take effect for the class of 1998, is a strain on the college's budget, as is the cost of operating the college with hundreds of students not paying tuition each semester when they study away.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees in March, the Trustees voted to hold off on charging Conn tuition for study abroad until the class of 1998 could study away with financial aid. In the meantime, they voted to impose a semesterly \$750 processing fee on students who study away in order to offset the need for further revenue to the college. According to Brooks, the processing fee was intended by the administration to be a compromise to the students' opposition to the charging of full tuition.

The move was criticized by student leaders, because administrators had never discussed the possibility of charging such a fee with them, but rather had gone from the announcement of the tuition charge to the Trustee vote.

When she was made aware of the decision to charge the processing fee, Yoders announced it to the SGA Assembly. Many Assembly members at that meeting expressed concern that students had not been informed of the possibility of the change, and some, although not rejecting the decision itself, criticized the process of college decision-making which seemed to them to bypass student input on this decision.

Brooks said that the fee had been discussed in Cabinet and PPBC meetings as one option on the table, although he was not sure how well the possibilities had been communicated. "It was mentioned in Cabinet as an alternative they were thinking about, but I was not made aware

Money and valuables stolen from unlocked dorm rooms

BY JENNY BARRON
Associate News Editor

Several dorm rooms in the Plex and Quad were broken into during the Sophomore Formal last weekend. Among items stolen were computer equipment, stereos and money.

Sophomore Ian Scrivner's Park dorm room was one of the one's broken into. Scrivner said that his stereo receiver, printer, camera, and watch were stolen while he was at the Sophomore Formal. Thirty dollars were also taken from his wallet. He said that he had left his door unlocked.

He described the events surrounding the break-in as "eerie". According to Scrivner, one of his friends saw four kids congregating around one of the freshmen rooms on his floor.

of the time frame that that decision was going to be made under," Yoders acknowledged.

Hybel said that he saw the imposition of the fee as evidence of the significance of student input, rather than a lack of attention paid to students. "When the students came to us [with their opposition to paying Conn tuition for study away], we said, OK, let's consider the financial ramifications of not charg-

ing it. We did, and our answer was this fee," he said. Yoders called the student leaders' immediate reaction to the fee frustration which resulted from an apparent lack of communication between students and administrators.

"The fact of the matter is that there wouldn't have been any difference [if the administration had discussed the fee with students],

It was later discovered that twenty dollars was taken from that room. They said that they were looking for someone's room. Scrivner said that his friend thought that they looked suspicious and called campus safety. When he got back to his room, his door was locked. The intruders had looked through his drawers and found his camera and watch. They also filled the space where his printer had been with his books and pictures.

Scrivner said that Campus Safety has sketches of the suspects and were going to the New London Police Department to obtain clear sketches.

"It could have been worse," Scrivner said. He explained that his CD player and computer were not taken.

"It [the burglaries] probably

would have been very easy," commented Shauna Moynihan, housefellow of Park. She said that most of Scrivner's neighbors were at the Formal. Moynihan said that she was in her room all night but did not see anything suspicious.

Catherine WoodBrooks, dean of student life, said that Campus Safety is working with the New London Police Department. She said that they do have descriptions of those involved and that they are not thought to be people who have ever been associated with the college. WoodBrooks stressed that "ninety-nine percent" of dorm rooms which are broken into are unlocked.

Jim Minor, director of Campus Safety, said that they are asking the campus community for assistance in finding those responsible for the burglaries.

and other than that one step, the process was followed to the fullest," she said.

"The perception was that we were being paid lip service to, and that wasn't the case; it was a minor lack of communication. And the Exec Board has been working with administrators to make sure that the decision and its reasoning is being effectively communicated to students," said Yoders.

Recommendations

Appearing on this page are *The College Voice's* recommendations for the SGA Executive Board and Young Alumni Trustee elections. *The College Voice* hopes these recommendations, read in conjunction with the additional election coverage, will enhance the election process.

These recommendations are not endorsements in that they do not necessarily reflect the support of a candidacy; rather they are the suggestions to the community as to which of the candidates are best qualified to hold the positions. This year, the *Voice* worked especially hard to reinforce this distinction and offer a recommendation for the best candidate for each position. Both declared candidates and write-in candidates present viable options for the voters and were invited to participate in the *Voice* recommendation process.

These decisions were based on an entire day of interviews and deliberations. In addition, *Voice* members attended both Speech Nights and reviewed platforms and pamphlets. All recommendations were reached by consensus with some editors stepping down when biases were an issue.

Each candidate was asked two standard questions and a third one specific to the position, followed by an open question/answer period.

Standard Questions:

Have you ever committed a serious violation of the honor code? In view of the greater responsibility entrusted to them by the college, do you believe student leaders need to be held to higher standards?

What do you see as the major issues facing students this year? If you held the position you are currently seeking this year, how would have dealt with these issues?

Specific Questions:

President:

How do you plan to gather and communicate information between students, faculty, administrators, and other groups and organizations?

Vice President:

Aside from chairing both the Constitution Committee and the Finance Committee, what is the role of SGA vice president?

Chair of Academic Affairs:

What will your commitment be to this position and how will you use your assistant? Your platform does not contain many specifics, what experiences have you had which qualify you for the position of chair of academic affairs?

Judiciary Board Chair:

Students understand that J-Board members are responsible to the Honor Code, as is every student at Conn. Is there any way that students can be informed about the policies of the board and issues which have come before the board?

SAC Chair:

Having never been a member of SAC, can you explain how SAC council runs and can you explain your understanding of the role of the chair?

Public Relations Director:

One of the criticisms of your performance this year, is your difficulty delegating responsibilities to your committee members, how will you improve on this next term if you are elected?

Young Alumni Trustee:

How can students at Conn be sure that as YAT you will remain easily accessible considering the changing face of the college and your busy post-graduation life? How will you inform yourself about issues affecting the student body?

PRESIDENT

We recommend **William Intner** for the position of president of the Student Government Association. He has the ability to contribute to the Assembly the extensive knowledge he has gained from a variety of experiences. Intner has served on numerous SGA committees, proving his dedication to the college through his diligent work. His plans to reach out to the student body, including the idea of organizing informal lunches with a variety of randomly selected students, are impressive. His promises to hold open forums in order to encourage dialogue between students, faculty, staff and administration seem likely to improve the links of communication among all groups. Intner has many concrete ideas about how to implement these plans. He has a clear idea as to the qualities of a good leader, including motivation, task ability, and interpersonal skills. However, he must be aware of how he communicates his ideas and be sure that he presents them in a non-confrontational manner. He is a solid candidate for the position of SGA president.

VICE PRESIDENT

We recommend **Damon Krieger** for the position of SGA vice president. Krieger, after serving two years as a member of the Finance Committee, possesses the experience the position of vice president requires. In addition to his committee experience, he has conscientiously educated himself about SGA procedure. He has a number of ideas which would alleviate some of the faults found in the budget process, including creating a standardized budget form and designing a database. Krieger plans to raise the level of spirit on campus by increasing the involvement of students and would like to see them unify and rally around events and issues, such as the budget process. Also, he would like to increase communication between students and SGA by holding more contact sessions about pertinent issues. Krieger, with his experience, his ideas, and his dedication, will be able to successfully fill the position of SGA vice president.

CHAIR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

We recommend with reservations **Kristin Page** for the position of chair of academic affairs of the Student Government Association. Although she has conscientiously made an effort to educate herself on the issues related to the position of chair of academic affairs, Page does need to examine the feasibility of some of her ideas. While some of the initiatives she has presented, such as creating a book of course evaluations to be put on reserve in the library, seem well-thought out, others, such as her idea to change policies regarding tenure, need more examination. Because she transferred here last year, she has a unique perspective as she is able to compare both institutions. In addition, she seems dedicated to improving intellectual life on campus through events such as school-wide lectures. With dedication and information gathering, Page has the ability to grow into the position of chair of academic affairs.

JUDICIARY BOARD CHAIR

After a lengthy period of deliberation, *The College Voice* was unable to reach a consensus in recommending the candidate for the position of chair of the Judiciary Board. We, therefore, offer no recommendation.

SAC CHAIR

The only candidate for the position of chair of the Student Activities Council was unable to participate in *The College Voice* recommendation process. Without the opportunity to interview the candidate as an organization, we do not feel sufficiently informed to make a recommendation for this position.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

We recommend **Jesse Roberts** for the position of public relations director of Student Government Association. While Roberts has successfully held this position this year, he promises to use this experience to improve his effectiveness if elected. He is dedicated to increasing institutional pride and believes there are numerous ways to developing higher morale, including increasing advertising for events. One of his projects, which is indicative of his dedication and school pride, is the Legacy Project which is a compilation of photographs and historical facts about the college. While he has had some difficulty with his PR Committee this year, he fully understands the problems and is currently working on solving them. Roberts, with his proven dedication and drive, has the ability to successfully hold the position of public relations director for SGA.

YOUNG ALUMNI TRUSTEE

We recommend **Deirdre Hennessey** for the position of Young Alumni Trustee. Her experience as class president, vice president, two years as J Board class representative, one year as senator, and serving on numerous committees qualifies her for this position. She is well aware of the low morale of the student body and is dedicated to improving this situation through maintaining both formal and informal channels of communication if elected to the position of YAT. Referencing the recently announced study away changes, Hennessey is dedicated to ensuring that lines of communication remain open. In reference to the recent budgetary shortfalls of the college, Hennessey believes that continued growth by substitution is not the solution, stating that there is little else to cut without threatening the very essence of the college. Hennessey's drive and dedication clearly demonstrate that she will be able to be an outstanding Young Alumni Trustee.

Candidate Profiles

PRESIDENT

William Intner, SGA presidential candidate, wants to ensure that all students have a voice and if elected president he has several ideas to ensure that this happens. He wants to see student concerns become campus issues.

Intner feels that there needs to be greater communication between SGA and students. He has several ideas including utilizing senators more effectively. He wants students to be able to voice their concerns and believes that this would be an effective method.

"I would challenge the senators to talk to five or ten people each week and bring back these issues to assembly," said Intner. He promises to communicate with the student leaders as well as other students. One idea he has is to meet with a variety of randomly selected students.

He also suggested that SGA Executive members meet with students for lunch or dinner in order to hear their ideas.

"It is the job of the president to utilize assembly members to get information out and in," said Intner.

Intner believes that at times communication breaks down between administrators and students. "It is very important to have a strong working relationship with administrators," said Intner. He believes that through his work on college committees he has developed strong ties with administrators.

Intner believes that the Honor Code should be valued and upheld by all students. He has never committed a serious infraction of the Honor Code and does not believe student leaders need to be held to a higher standard. "I believe that all student should be held to the same high standard," said Intner.

Intner believes his wide range of campus involvement makes him the best choice for president. His involvement in student gov-



William Intner

ernment includes Academic and Administrative committee, Dean's Grievance, Library and Bookshop Committee, Academic and Advising Task Force, College Committee on Diversity, Vice President of the class of 96, Finance Committee as well as many other committees and positions of leadership. He has been involved in other campus activities through his work in the theater and his participation in the ski team.

PRESIDENT

John Biancur is looking for improvement. This candidate for Student Government Association president looks to improve a lot if he were to be elected to this position... and that's not just in the area of Dining Services. His proposals are shifting from our halls of consumption to more governmental concerns. His three-pronged proposal offers new direction for the student government.

Biancur wants to get back to basics and straightforwardness. He plans to bring his "mellow tone in leadership style" to the Student Government Association Executive Board, hoping to stick a simple, to the point, "no rambling" seal on the assembly. Biancur also believes students should be better informed on campus. He is looking to use all of the media here at Conn—e-mail, posters, the Daily CONNtact—in order to better inform and involve our student body.

Biancur seeks to establish a "statewide coalition" of colleges and universities to discuss problems that student governments face. After all, other schools may have other ideas and suggestions which could be useful to the student body.

Biancur also supports the Yom Kippur Proposal. However, if the proposal were to be shot down, John would not advocate a sit-in. He will just accept it and move on.

On the topic of diversity, which, in his opinion, is one of the most important issues faced by the Connecticut College community this year, he would like an increase in diversity in all areas, including SGA, noting that only which two minority members currently hold seats. Talking to Unity and the Minority Students Steering Committee as much as possible will hopefully aid this process.

And finally, in terms of communication with students, faculty, and administration, he plans to meet regularly with all three groups



John Biancur

on a monthly basis in order to gather and exchange information between these groups.

This candidate wants more than a pasta bar in Harris or a Guest Meal Pass in Cro, two of his accomplishments this year. Increasing diversity, making this campus a more interactive community, and "enacting legislation to better the lives of all students" are Biancur's goals.

Biancur is currently SGA presidential associate and is a member of several committees.

PRESIDENT

Dan Shedd, class of 1996 and current J-Board chair, believes the most important issue facing student government right now is that students perceive a sense of disconnection from SGA. "The perception is that [SGA] is living in [its] own world, not connected to us."

"The power of student government," Shedd continued, "is that it is a unified group that could represent all students, but that's meaningless if the students don't feel represented."

He has come up with several ideas to combat the perception, and the reality, of the problems with representation in student government.

"Posters and SGA newsletters just don't work," he said. "It's obvious from Speech Night," he said, "no one showed up."

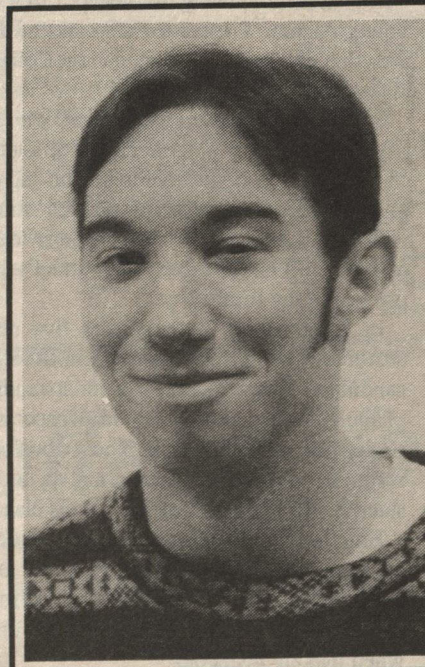
Shedd's ideas for increasing the connection between all students and student government include forming focus groups of "random students" who would be called together to discuss major issues throughout the year.

In this way, he hopes to reach students who would otherwise not become involved with or take an interest in student government.

He believes that the evolution of his attitude toward SGA, from his freshman year disaffection, to the growth of his awareness through his position as J-Board class representative, to his current sense of certainty about the potential of student government, gives him a unique perspective on the interests of students similarly outside the sphere of student leadership.

One of the most important issues of the year, in Shedd's view, is the changing dynamics of the student body.

This year's freshman class, he noted, has a higher percentage of students of color than any class in the college's history.



Dan Shedd

It is the responsibility of SGA, he said, to meet the needs of these students and to strengthen the community by intensifying the connection between the Minority Students Steering Committee and the SGA.

In Shedd's opinion, improved relations between SGA and the student body this year are due to a less formal attitude adopted by many of the SGA Executive Board members, a tone which he would continue as president.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Kristin Page, junior class J-Board representative, puts faculty evaluations at the top of her agenda in her campaign for next year's Student Government Association chair of academic affairs.

"If we don't express our concerns about a professor, they're not getting heard," Page said. Page, a transfer student from Muhlenberg College, plans to change evaluations into a form used at her former institution. Page said that for an evaluation, students were given two separate sheets of paper, a formal evaluation sheet and another on which students would "just vent." Page said that these sheets were kept in a book and were referred to when evaluation the professor in the future.

Page does not support academic credit for extra curricular activities. She said that students take part in extra curriculars because they love how they spend their extra time.

Page believes that faculty tenure should be evaluated every few years.

"Tenure is a privilege. A person should not have tenure if they don't deserve it," Page said. Page also mentioned a possible "critical review" which would "keep professors on their toes."

Page spoke of a professor who made discriminatory remarks and actions towards female students at her former college, who was fired from that institution. Page believes that students should have the power to get rid of discriminatory and biased professors.

Page believes that although student leaders should be kept on the same playing field as all other students, they are in actuality held to a higher level. "I should to some degree be accountable, but ideally I shouldn't be," said Page.

"[The chair of academic affairs] is responsible for articulating the concerns and views



Kristin Page

of the students regarding the academic issues to the administration and faculty. . . [it] is, therefore, imperative that this person be a responsible, articulate individual with a strong sense of the issues that need to be addressed," said Page in her platform.

Page intends to strengthen the role of her assistant, if elected, and will have that person play an active role in the Board of Advisory Chairs meetings, and in the logistics of carrying out her plans.

Candidate Profiles

VICE PRESIDENT

Sophomore Damon Krieger's platform for SGA vice president stresses his experience in the finance process.

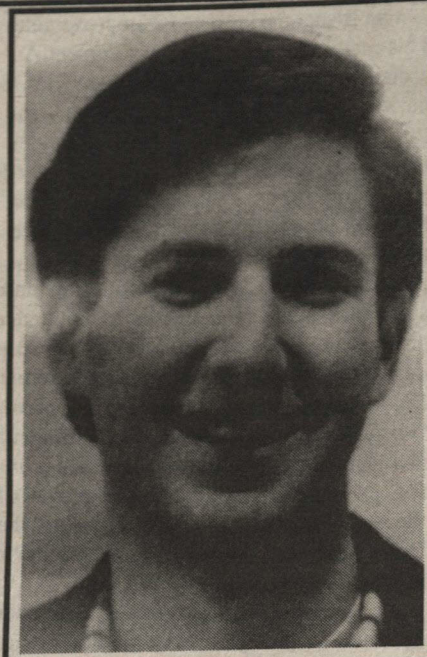
Krieger has served on the Finance Committee for two years. He said that after participating in the process several times, he has seen both the positive and negative aspects of the process. Krieger stated that he would improve the process in several ways.

First, Krieger wants to educate finance committee members on the guidelines of the process as well as get them to voice their goals. Secondly, the vice presidential candidate would like to see four students at large and four SGA members serve on the committee to improve balance and perspective. During this year's budget process, two SGA members served on the committee.

Lastly, Krieger suggests computerizing the process by compiling a budget database. Krieger said that by starting off with a standard budget, the process would be much more efficient and productive.

Krieger also spoke of looking into increasing the student activities budget and making SAC work within a fixed percentage each year. This method would eliminate the bureaucracy of the budget process for "an organization which plays a large role on campus," says Krieger.

Krieger also addressed the issue of student involvement in campus government. He said that most students do not understand what SGA positions are about. "It's tough and I don't know what we can really do to change that," he explained. Krieger continued by describing the vice presidential position and his need to act as a "leader and model for the community," in order to promote involvement and efficiency with student government. Krieger plans to work to organize contact sessions and work with



Damon Krieger

club leaders to increase understanding of SGA on campus. "We have to force students to hear what is happening," Krieger said.

Krieger said that he feels the student body has the ability to rally behind or against an issue. As an example, he cited this year's trashing of the student activities budget. He wishes to make use of students' "rallying power" within several parts of student government.

VICE PRESIDENT

Sophomore Alex Cote, senator of Blackstone, is a candidate for SGA vice president.

When asked about the Honor Code and student leadership, Cote said that "all leaders should be held to a higher standard... They should be leaders, they should always be striving to be somewhat better."

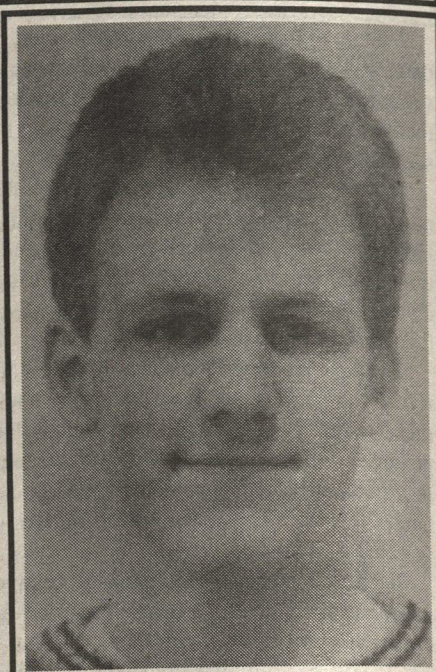
The SGA vice president sits on the Constitution and Finance Committees but has immense responsibilities beyond these; when asked how he views the role of the vice president, Cote replied, "Everybody on Exec Board has a certain constituency... The vice president is the representative of the clubs on Assembly and on Exec Board. I think that's the biggest role aside from allocating the money."

Citing "experience, initiative and commitment" as the foundation of his candidacy, Cote seeks to return fiscal responsibility to the vice presidency and campus respect to the budget process.

Increasing the Student Activities Fund is a major initiative of Cote's campaign. He intends to invest funds and collect interest which would be put into the Student Activities Fund, claiming that "the money from Senior Week could earn about \$650 interest...." He would also like to work with the athletic department to encourage club sports to gain varsity status.

Modestly crediting current vice president Ryan Poirier for the idea of budget semesterization, Cote intends to implement that idea. If the process is semesterized, "the money is more tightly controlled... it's easier to get an accurate estimate of how much an event will cost if you're doing it a few months in advance rather than six or eight," said Cote.

In a discussion of major campus issues,



Alex Cote

Cote said, "I think the major issue... is apathy. I think that's going to be a major issue for a while." He seeks to combat student apathy by rekindling interest in clubs, claiming "...the campus needs to excite the interest of the students, and I think the position of vice president is a good one to do that in because the vice president has the money. I think getting people more involved in the process might be a good way to get them interested in other processes which would be a good way to fight apathy as a general rule."

SAC CHAIR

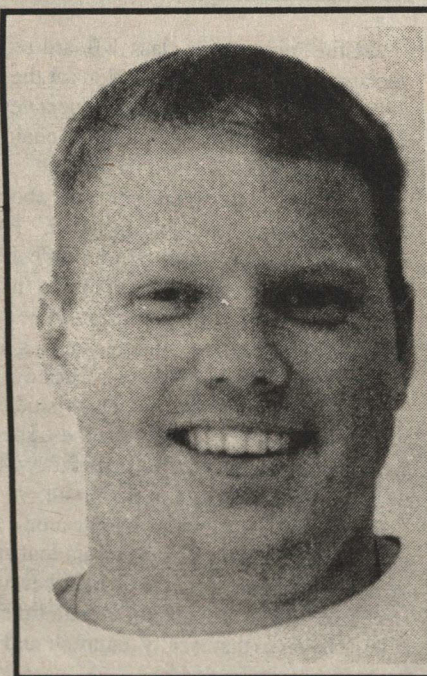
Ted Svehlik, class of 1997, is running unopposed for the position of chair of the Student Activities Council.

According to Svehlik, the most important issue facing the college today is the fact that student morale is low. He believes that it is necessary to create more all-campus events and increase the quality of the food. He also has ideas for the College Center and would like to work toward keeping it open later and creating a more comfortable atmosphere. He believes these changes would positively affect the college.

He believes that there is too little to do on the weekends, claiming there needs to be activities all weekend long. People should be bored because they want to be bored, not because they have no other choice.

He feels that it is important for all students to be able to go into the weekend after a long, hard, stressful week finding something that appeals to their own interests. Some of his ideas for activities include a velcro wall party, bungee jumping on Harkness green, casino nights, and intra-dorm activities.

Svehlik has never been a member of SAC but he promises to work closely with Ben Tyrrell, current SAC chair, in order to fully understand the role of chair.



Ted Svehlik

YAT

Rob Erda is running for the position of Young Alumni Trustee for the class of. He feels that the future for Connecticut College looks bright.

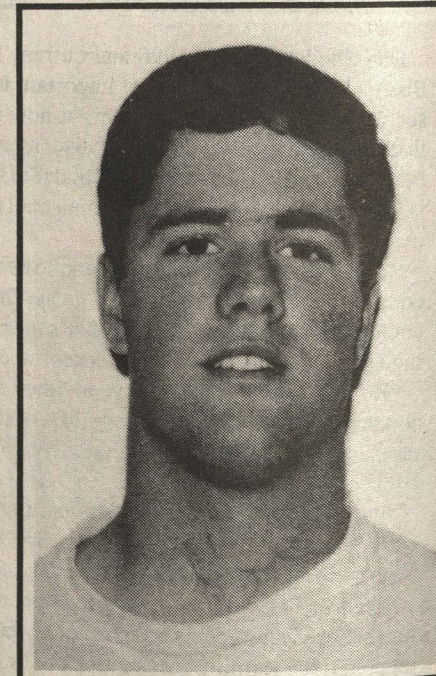
Erda believes that his experience as a varsity captain, dorm governor, school leader, class executive board member, and legacy gives him, according to his platform, a "sound idea of where Connecticut College is today and where it needs to be to continually improve into the future."

In his platform, he expresses five main attributes that he feels makes him the right candidate. These include his understanding of adult groups, involvement in all aspects of student life, understanding of how a business is run, decision making skills, and an understanding of the representation of his class.

Erda feels that he has the realistic outlook a Young Alumni Trustee needs in order to be successful in this position. "A YAT must think past tomorrow to understand the future when making decisions."

He wishes add new programs, sports and extracurricular activities in order to improve the college.

Erda was unable to attend *The College Voice* recommendation process and was, therefore, not interviewed.



Rob Erda

This issue was compiled by:

India Hopper
April Ondis
Alexander Todd
Jen LeVan
Lou Carter
Jonah Davis
Chris Scott
Jennifer McCreary
Eden Savino

Publisher
Editor in Chief (newspaper)
Managing Editor
Editor in Chief (magazine)
Business Manager
Assistant Business Manager
Advertising Manager
International News Writer
Anchor

Morgan Hertzan
Lina Ziurys
Michelle Ronayne
Jenny Barron
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Peter Berk
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Head Copy Chief
A&E Editor
Executive Producer
Features Writer
National News Writer
Photographer
Photography Editor

Is there a place for me in the Civil Society?

Before Spring Break, Dean Ferrari sent several voice mail messages regarding homophobic graffiti found at Connecticut College. As a member of the Connecticut College community who is gay, I am writing to express my concern, voice my opinion and provide suggestions that I believe will help our community begin to address the problem.

After hearing that the graffiti specifically named me ("Mark Hoffman AIDS Head Homo"), I experienced a range of emotions. At first, I laughed the situation off, thinking, "Someone has too much time on his or her hands." Walking home from work, I began to feel fear as I realized that an individual on this campus has some very strong, negative opinions about who I am. The feeling of fear intensified, as I realized I was vulnerable and could be the target of a hate crime. Fear changed to sadness, as I began to feel isolated and powerless. Sadness changed to anger as I reflected on the current campus climate for people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual and how the College is a passive contributor to this negative climate.

Regarding the graffiti, I want to thank Dean Ferrari for his quick and forceful response, as well as the entire Student Life and Dean of the College staff for their support. I was, however, disappointed that the response from the President's Office, the faculty and students was markedly different from their response to the racist graffiti of last year.

As I sat in the first all-campus discussion regarding the graffiti, I realized that my anger was not directed at the graffiti, but toward the College's hypocritical stance regarding equal rights and discrimination. The college's approach (or lack thereof) to issues of sexual orientation is a mockery of what I have heard for the past few years about creating and living in a Civil Society.

During the five years that I have

been employed at Connecticut College, I have heard and read that we must lead society (not mirror it) to build a Civil Society. A Civil Society seeks to confront prejudice and discrimination in all its forms. A Civil Society strives to provide all of its members with an equal opportunity to succeed and contribute. A Civil Society recognizes the value of our differences and does more than "tolerate" them, it celebrates and supports them.

Unfortunately, I do not feel that Connecticut College is a "Civil Society" when:

- The College denies insurance benefits for my partner because we are not "married." Although it is impossible for two people of the same sex to be legally married in all 50 states, it is not impossible for the College to grant equal insurance benefits.

- According to the employee handbook, I would not be allowed time off for grieving, in case my partner was hospitalized or died.

- I am told that I can not have my partner's name listed in the college phone book, as heterosexual spouses are listed, but instead have to resort to 'slipping it in' right before the phone book goes to press.

- As a rule, I can not receive tuition remission for my partner, unless it is by exception.

- The College provides no financial support to address the concerns and needs of students who are lesbian, gay or bisexual (unlike Unity House and the Multicultural admissions recruiter for students of color, The Office for International Students and students with disabilities, and the Everywomen's Center).

- Before I came to Connecticut College, there were no consistent workshops provided for orientation or student groups regarding sexual orientation.

These are a few of the examples of discrimination against people who are bisexual, gay or lesbian at Connecticut College, even though we include 'sexual orientation' in our non-discrimination statement.

This list does not even begin to address the challenges that students who are lesbian, gay or bisexual face. Fortunately, I work in a supportive office with an extremely supportive supervisor. Unfortunately, I know many staff and faculty members who are not so lucky, and remain in the closet for fear of isolation and discrimination.

There is a silver lining to the cloud of discrimination against people who are bisexual, lesbian or gay at Connecticut College. In the new strategic plan (recently ratified by the Board of Trustees), there is an objective to form a committee to examine issues of sexual orientation on campus. As the person who spoke before the 'community' component of the strategic planning committee requesting that this be added, I am both excited and apprehensive. I am excited that the Strategic Plan includes the committee to look at sexual orientation. I am apprehensive, however, as I fear that the committee may not be assembled in the near future. How effective will this committee be for our current students, staff and faculty who are bisexual, lesbian and gay if it is formed at the end of the five year strategic plan, in 1999? With the recent graffiti on campus and heightened campus awareness, I hope the committee will be formed by the end of this semester, in order to begin researching the issue during the slower summer months.

From my perspective, we must develop a committee that reports its findings and recommendations directly to the President, by December of 1995. Because this issue affects students, faculty and staff, the committee must include members from the entire College Community and report to the President, not just within the Dean of the College division. The committee should include:

- 1 - The Director of Human Resources, as so many of the issues are related to employees (insurance benefits, tuition remission, etc.),
- 2 - A representative of the

Provost's office to consider issues of inclusion and discrimination within the academic side of the college (course offerings, faculty support, library holdings),

- 3 - The Director of the Alumni Office, as we have many alumni who are gay, lesbian or bisexual who have unique issues,

- 4 - A member of the Development staff, as they are soliciting alumni (present and future) who are gay, lesbian or bisexual, especially as the amount of alumni giving usually is directly related to the quality of life one experienced as an undergraduate,

- 5 - The Affirmative Action Officer, as the issue at hand is discrimination,

- 6 - A member of the Admissions office, as many high school students are coming out of the closet and looking for schools that are inclusive. This is especially important in light of the shrinking pool of potential applicants,

- 7 - The Director of Campus Safety, to consider issues of personal safety on campus for people who are bisexual, lesbian or gay,

- 8 - A member of the Career Services office, as there are unique concerns and challenges that a person who is lesbian, bisexual or gay faces when conducting a job search,

- 9 - The Director of Counseling services, as being gay, bisexual or lesbian in a homophobic world takes a psychological toll on a person,

- 10 - The College Chaplain, as spirituality is a concern for people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual,

- 11 - The Director of Unity House, because our community transcends race and ethnicity. African American, Latino and Asian American lesbians, bisexuals and gays must confront racism, sexism and homophobia,

- 12 - A member of the Dean's staff, as they work with all types of student problems and are concerned about students' desire to transfer (which is a common theme I hear among many students who are lesbian, bisexual or gay),

- 13 - The SAC Chair, as social life on this campus for students who are lesbian, bisexual or gay is rather meager,

- 14 - Finally, two students, faculty and staff members (for a total of six) who are lesbian, gay or bisexual to relate their experiences at Connecticut College.

The list is quite long, but for good reason. It is important that we recognize that this issue impacts faculty and staff, as well as students (past, present and future).

Creating a Civil Society is not just the responsibility of a few people or this committee. In case you are wondering, "But what can I do?" I have these suggestions: If you are lesbian, bisexual or gay, speak up and take the next step to come out of the closet. It is only when we end our silence that we will be heard! For all of us concerned with this issue, write a letter to the President (of the College and SGA). If you are a heterosexual ally, realize that this discrimination can happen to you (many people wrongly assume someone is gay, lesbian or bisexual and react accordingly, when nothing could be further from the truth). Finally, we can all support the newly formed student organization S.O.U.L. (Sexual Orientations United for Liberation). For Connecticut College to be an example of a Civil Society, we all have to take an active part in ensuring that there is an end to hatred, exclusion and intolerance.

While I'd like to thank the graffiti artist for the promotion to "Head Homo," I'm afraid I'll have to decline. After today, please ask someone else to speak up in staff meetings for people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual, give interviews to The Voice, advise The Alliance (now S.O.U.L.), or present workshops for first-year orientation, awareness weeks, and student leader training. After five years of feeling like the only person in the administration actively addressing gay, lesbian or bisexual issues, I am resigning as "Head Homo."

Mark Hoffman
Director of Activities/College Center

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We are currently accepting applications for all Executive Board positions.

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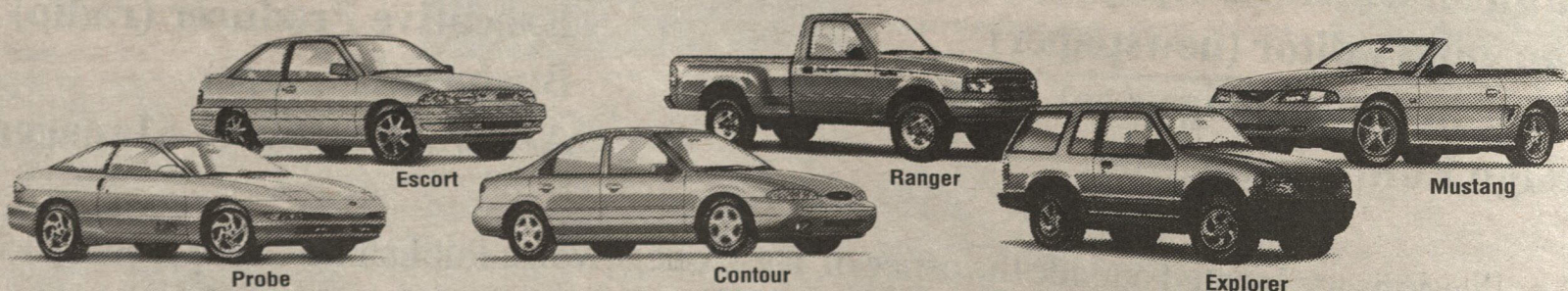
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Candidate Profiles

PR DIRECTOR

Junior Jesse Roberts is running for a second term as SGA public relations director on a platform of combating student apathy and improving school-wide awareness of the college's history. He is running uncontested.

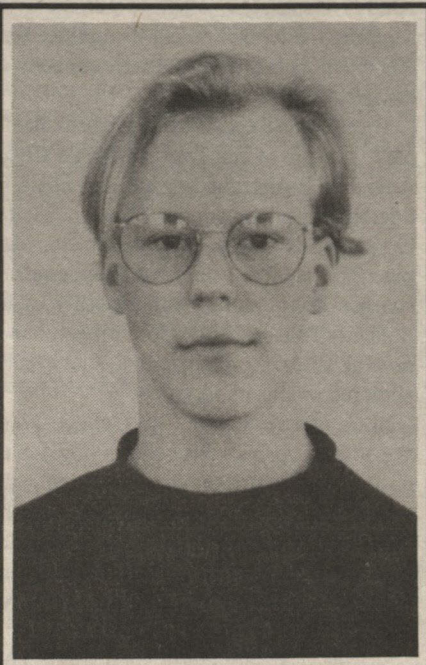
"I think the biggest problem facing students every year is student apathy—it's a very big, broad, umbrella-esque term that covers many issues." He said moving the voting location from outside of the mailroom to the Alumni Connection has had a detrimental effect on voter turnout. But, Roberts commented, there is only so much a PR director can do to combat the problem of apathy, which he sees as campus wide.

"So, I have to wonder how much farther can we reach out," Roberts commented. "Should I be cutting five hundred more feet to lie on the floor of Cro?"

He explained that it is very difficult to motivate anyone out to do anything on the campus. Roberts has tried to raise awareness of campus events by convincing the office of College Relations to print the Communicator in *The College Voice*.

Roberts is very concerned about the lack of knowledge of the college's history on campus. For example, he said that very few people know that the college shut down for four days in 1972 to protest the Vietnam war. He is currently working on the Legacy Project, a series of twenty-five poster size placards to be placed in the College Center depicting interesting moments in campus history. Seventeen of the placards will be time specific, and the other eight will have general themes, such as the history of the mascot and the school seal, diversity, shared governance.

Robert's experiences include a full year as PR director, a member of the College



Jesse Roberts

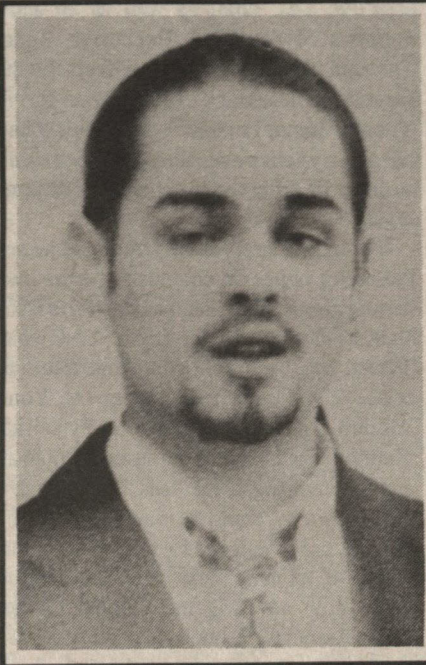
Center Advisory Committee, the Library Committee and the C-Book Revision Committee. He has worked throughout the 94-95 academic year as a member of both the SGA Executive Board and the SGA Assembly. He is most interested in increasing the amount of institutional pride on campus. He plans on continuing his efforts to motivate students into becoming more aware of student government and institutional issues.

J-BOARD CHAIR

Nick Smolansky, a sophomore, is running unopposed for the position of Judiciary Board Chair. He is currently serving as the coordinator for the J-Board, an appointed position. According to his platform, Smolansky believes that, "Ideally the Honor Code is a tool to foster a sense of community." When asked about whether students should come to a uniform consensus about the Honor Code, Smolansky replied that the issue is really about personal choices and responsibility. He would like to instill in next year's freshmen the idea that they are joining a community that has a certain standard of respect. Smolansky wants people to look toward the spirit of the Honor Code and make choices about what it means to them. He is currently working on a written definition of the Honor Code with this year's chair.

Speaking on the issue of the "friendship clause," Smolansky replied that it does not formally exist, but that it is very important that confidentiality on campus be maintained. He said if a J-Board representative or someone brought before the Board needs to talk to someone, she or he may talk with "off campus" friends and parents, bringing into question whether confidentiality is absolute. He believes it is important to have a cohesive and close Board.

In reference to Honor Code standards for student leaders, Smolansky replied that he believes that everyone should be held to the same standard, but the ramifications would be greater for student leaders who should be "aware of the consequences." When asked about any personal Honor Code infractions, he replied, "I guess that depends how you define serious infraction. I'd say the only thing that I've done...would be underage drinking which I have done, still do, and will



Nick Smolansky

do until I'm 21 next September."

Smolansky believes that the biggest issue for J-board is accountability. For this reason, he feels that publication of the J-Board log is important. He feels that the students have a valid complaint about this year's lack of logs, and he wants to publish them next year in one month to six week intervals. He also thinks that the contact sessions the J-Board has are a good way of getting in touch with people, and he wants to have more sessions next year.

YAT

Deirdre Hennessey is running for the position of Young Alumni Trustee. After serving as a J-Board representative for two years, class vice president, class president, and dorm senator, she believes she has the experience necessary to hold the position of YAT.

Hennessey stated, "[E]verything falls under low morale. I think that people are getting tired of having nothing to do but I think it is getting better." She is interested in the quality of life on campus, specifically citing dorm renovations and class accessibility.

She also promises to be in close contact with students on campus. She stated, "It is really important that the YAT is constantly here and knows what is going on."

Hennessey said, "I will be coming back to Conn ... I will find out what important things are coming up before SGA or if there is an important issue for the college."

However, Hennessey qualified this statement by stressing that as YAT she would be working through the year, not simply preparing the week before a trustee meeting. She believes that as YAT she would communicate with both the students and the trustees on a regular basis.

She promises to be familiar face on the campus with the goal she would be more accessible to all students. In addition to this promise, she is planning to live at home after graduation which is only an hour away from campus.

As for her campaign promises, she would like to stress her past record, stating, "I would like to think that my past record for keeping my promises is trusted by the senior class."

Hennessey is also dedicated to ensuring that as YAT she will be aware as to the issues affecting students, hopefully before it is too late for the students to give the trustees their input. She cited the recent study away contro-



Deirdre Hennessey

versy as an example.

Hennessey stresses she is most concerned with the well-being of the students and less concerned with the rank of the college. She believes that if the student body is satisfied, then this satisfaction will be obvious to prospective students and will, therefore, also be reflected in the rankings.

In her interview, Hennessey invited all to look at her past history to judge her future performance as the Young Alumni Trustee for the class of 1995.

YAT

Wesley Simmons is running for the position of Young Alumni Trustee for the class of 1995 because, he says "Connecticut College has done a lot for [me] over the past four years and, as an alumnus of the school, [I] would be able to give something back.

Simmons feels he has been "exposed to a lot of different student concerns" and this exposure has enabled him to get to know the issues that relate to the student body. He said that if elected to the position of Young Alumni Trustee, he would try to inform himself about students' concerns through e-mail, friends on campus, mailings, and campus publications.

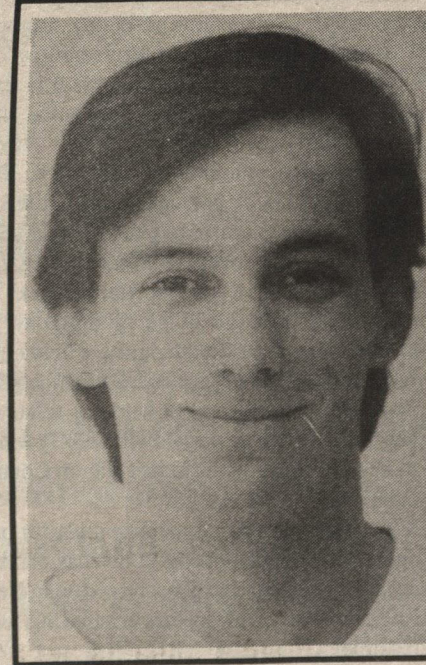
According to Simmons, this connection with students would help him present trustees with students' attitudes and most relevant issues. But he admits that being off campus will limit his access to all sides of student concerns.

He has long been involved in SGA and several campus governance committees such as the Financial Strategic Planning Team and the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee.

He says it is unlikely that he would "sever all ties" with the school's leaders after graduation because of his allegiance to these organizations.

Simmons cites his experience as a representative on campus committees and working with numerous administrators as an indication of his qualification for the position. Regarding his ability to work with the other Trustees, Simmons stated, "I'm not afraid to ask questions when I don't understand."

Simmons expressed his dismay about the \$750 fee to be charged to students studying abroad next year. He believes students need to be consulted about issues such as this one, instead of decisions being sprung on the



Wes Simmons

students

Simmons acknowledged that in his freshman year, he was brought before the Judiciary Board on charges of underage drinking and creating a nuisance to the community. However, he did not consider himself to have committed a serious violation of the Honor Code. Simmons said that student leaders should be held to higher standards regarding the Honor Code because he sees these students as representatives of and role models for the student body as a whole.

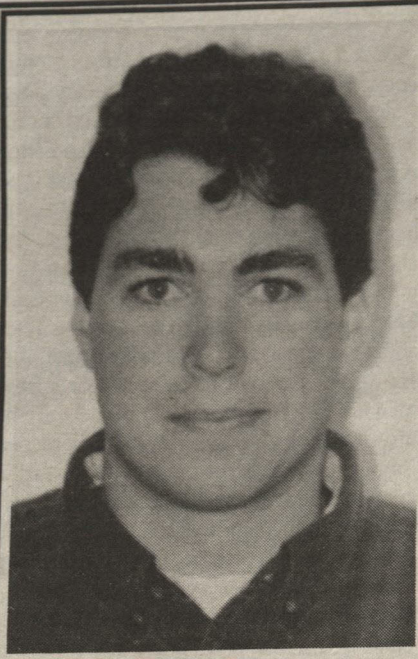
Candidate Profiles/Platforms

YAT

This year Ben Tyrrell was an involved and effective SAC chair as well as an active member of the SGA Executive Board. Through these positions he feels he has gained the necessary experience to run for Young Alumni Trustee. Tyrrell said, "I have been fairly active ever since I stepped on this campus in different ways and on different levels."

During his interview, Tyrrell said he sees the major issues on campus to be the intellectual atmosphere and quality of life issues such as dorms and food. As SAC chair, Tyrrell has been following this issue and hopes to continue to do so as the Young Alumni Trustee. In his platform, Tyrrell also mentions the issues of the strategic plan and capital campaign. He sees the college as moving forward and he wants to keep it on that track. He believes for a YAT to be most effective, he must pick his battles carefully when both advising the Student Government Association and when working with the Board of Trustees. He realizes the importance of credibility and the need to maintain a good image in the eyes of the Board of Trustees in order for them to take a YAT seriously.

On the note of image, Tyrrell believes in the importance of the Honor Code. He gave an emphatic "yes" in response to the question of whether people in office should be held to a higher standard than the general student body. He also replied that he had never had a serious infraction of the Honor Code. Tyrrell is aware of the changes that have taken place at Connecticut College and believes there are more to come. Tyrrell feels that the Young Alumni Trustee must represent the entire student body, not just the senior class. He emphasized the need to keep lines of communication open with the Mi-



Ben Tyrrell

nority Student Steering Committee and Unity House to understand the needs of students of color. His plans to keep in touch with the entire ever-changing students include reading *The Voice*, working the phone, exploring e-mail and returning for visits back to the campus.

Tyrrell is planning on living in Baltimore next year and lamented that he had only known one YAT in his four years at Conn. He made clear that he can not assure his accessibility but that he cares about the college and its future.

YAT

Dan Towvim brings a unique perspective to the race for the position of Young Alumni Trustee. He has served as Housefellow of Branford for the past year. Towvim is extremely well informed about residential and student life issues.

In his platform and his interview, He stressed his desire enhance student life on campus. As an example he plans to make sure Plex renovations become a reality. Regarding other issues of student life, he seeks to incorporate a broad range of opinions. If elected, one of the first things he would do is meet with the newly elected SGA officers for next year. Establishing a working relationship with these individuals will help Towvim to keep in touch with student life on Conn's campus.

Towvim also proposed bi-monthly forums open to the student body to discuss current issues of concern. He plans on living in New England in the coming years to make this idea feasible.

Towvim wishes to consult with alumni to find out about their experience at Conn and to discover lost traditions. With this research he hopes to re-establish older traditions. The discussions with past and present Conn students will enable Towvim to boost morale and to effectively serve as a YAT.

Towvim brings a mixture of experiences to his candidacy. He has served on Class Council, served as chairperson on the Class Community Service Committee, in addition to his Housefellow position. Towvim worked on the Senior Pledge Steering Committee which raised over twenty-thousand dollars, a record breaking amount. Among other activities he has worked on the Study Abroad Advisory Committee and has held the position as a Campus Tour Guide.



Dan Towvim

He has much experience in a variety of facets of campus but he has never served on SGA. While this lack of SGA experience is not detrimental, Towvim is not clear on some of the issues facing students. Specifically, he was not informed of the newly announced fee which relates to study away changes. Finally, Towvim does not view the position of YAT as a status or resume builder. Rather, he wishes to become an effective representative of the student body at Conn for the future of Conn community.

YAT

Priya Mather, write-in candidate for Young Alumni Trustee and an active member of the Minority Students Steering Committee feels that diversity is one of the many concerns on campus today.

Through her experiences as the co-chair of MSSC, chair of the Everywoman's Center Advisory Board and as political chair for Society Organized Against Racism, Mathur has played an integral leadership role on campus. Through these leadership experiences, she has taken on the responsibility of the Student-Trustee Liason Committee, chair of several student organizations and has co-authored proposals for SGA.

In an interview with *The College Voice*, she voiced her reasons for running for the position of YAT. "I am very invested in this school. This is a college which can do incredible things." She feels that Connecticut College has made many "incredible leaps and bounds" and is "moving in a positive direction."

When asked about the responsibilities of a student leader, Mathur feels that it is the job of any and all student leaders to set an example for every student on this campus. She holds herself accountable for every action that she takes and makes the decision based on her role as a student leader.

She has voiced concern on such issues as the lack of women faculty members and a need for increasing the endowment.

Mathur feels that there is "too little communication with other organizations" and thinks that she can better integrate the entire campus community by talking to all of the student leaders. Not just specific ones. "When you talk to a wide group of people, you get a clearer picture of how things are being run."

Mathur's accessibility to the students was another point raised. It is important that she

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Priya Mathur

keep in touch with all student leaders and receive input on the happenings of the college as a whole. While living in Philadelphia, next year she would be within driving distance of the college and would visit as frequently as possible.

She strives not only to both listen to and inform the students of the minutes during trustee meetings, but to get the trustee's themselves to integrate with the college community to better understand the concerns of the students as well as the faculty and administration.

Jesse Roberts

Public Relations Director

Public relations is not just about making a group of people look good. Instead, it is about thorough and honest communication. Quality public relations is vital within every facet of living; especially when it concerns an organization such as the Student Government Association. SGA needs strong, reliable and consistent communication with the campus community.

As Public Relations Director this year, I have worked very hard to improve such communication: whether it be through the House Senators, through forums such as publicity or the *SGA Newsletter*, or in improving existing forums of information, such as the Communicator, which will soon be published in the Voice as a weekly events calendar. In a second term, I would look forward to continuing such efforts in increasing quality communication.

Yet, the role of PR Director extends past the framework of publicity and communication. The PR Director also serves as Chair of the Election Board. This year we have run several elections, more so than in an average year. I have also led an effort to revise and restructure the elections process to ensure efficiency in procedure as well as integrity in voting.

Aside from my specific duties as PR Director, I have worked throughout the year as a member of both the SGA Executive Board and the SGA Assembly. Much has been accomplished this year in both forums; issues spanning from dorm renovations to C-Book revisions to building institutional pride.

My committee involvement includes sitting on the College Center Advisory Committee, the Library Committee, the C-Book Revision Committee; as well as chairing the College Relations Advisory Committee, the Election Board and of course, the Public Relations Committee.

I feel that if re-elected as Public Relations Director, I can only improve upon the work I have begun this year, continuing to enhance the themes of representation and communication.

Don't forget to vote - 4/12 & 4/13 in the Alumni Connection.

Platforms

William Intner SGA President

Student Government has the ability to make Conn a better place. The SGA President has the capacity to make that happen by guiding SGA to work for the students, about their concerns. I think it is time that even more student concerns become college issues — that would be my goal as SGA President. However, that goal will only be as effective as the communication between the students and SGA. It is important that we work to make sure that student leaders know what the students want so the SGA Assembly can be used effectively to address those issues.

The administration and trustees want to work for a better Conn for tomorrow — however, they cannot achieve that without working with us today. Working with them, rather than against them, is what will get us, as students, productive change. My activities throughout the community have given me experience working with faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and especially students. I have worked with many student organizations from all of the branches of student government, including the clubs. From that experience I have learned that there needs to be a concerted effort to ensure that student concerns become college issues.

The Laundry List

College Governance:

Academic and Administrative Policy Committee
Dean's Grievance
Library and Bookshop Committee
Academic Advising Task Force
College Committee on Diversity

Student Governance:

Vice President of the Class of 1996
Class Representative to the Class of 1996
SGA Senator
Counseling Services Committee, Chair
Philip Goldberg Internship Committee, Chair
Financial Aid Liaison Committee, Chair
Finance Committee
SAC Coordinator
Student Advisor

Clubs and Sports:

Ski Team
Dasein (Ultimate Frisbee)
Chavurah

•Diversity Issues•

Though we have achieved higher numbers of minority enrollment in recent years, we still need to move farther. This can be accomplished through more course alternatives and better campus-wide programming, to mention but two possibilities. To excel among our peer institutions, this cannot be an area left out of student concerns.

•Food/Dining Services•

The quality of the food service can certainly get better. It is important that student leaders are there that are able to remind the administration that in all their plans for the future, they cannot be allowed to forget the students of today.

•Residential/Social Life•

With the enforcement of the alcohol policy, it has become even more important for the administration to get behind alternative activities. As this semester has drawn to a close, that has begun to happen on a small scale from student life. However, improvements could be made by allowing for more money and support for clubs by increasing the amount of money the school puts into the student activities fund.

What The List Means

- On AAPC I have worked to make sure that students get the credits that they deserve when studying with the SA/TA program.
- On Assembly I spearheaded a joint effort with the Board of Governors to create a Residential Life position to insure that Residential Life issues are addressed better in the future by SGA and the administration.
- On the Financial Aid Liaison Committee I worked with the administration and students to make sure that they understood the system and to work to make it better for them, so they could stay at Conn.
- On the Finance Committee I developed and understanding of many of the clubs and organizations on campus. I have seen and identified a need to change the process so that these organizations can spend more time and money bringing events to the campus and less time fighting for money.

The above is a very short list of what I have helped to do. However, I hope that it indicates my commitment to working for the students. Thank you.

Dan Shedd SGA President

Philosophy

I advocate a realistic approach to student government, where issues are taken seriously without taking ourselves too seriously, and ideas are valued over pride. Being able to effectively defend and promote student rights is crucial, however this responsibility must be tempered by a mature understanding of the issues we face, and realistic decisions of which battles to choose.

As President I would be a leader and spokesman for all students, futhering communication to inspire successful cooperation. My first priority will be to listen to everyone about any idea or concern they have, and to help them develop and promote these ideas, or lead them to those who can. I ask a strong group of individuals to become involved who will drive me and each other to wiser decisions that best represent and support the student body.

Issues

Next year, we will be dealing with many issues, all of which require a strong student voice. Including...

- Dorm Renovations: Our input will play an important role in the redesign of the plex. We need to ensure that the changes are a reflection of our present and future needs.
- The Capital Campaign: We must ensure that budget restructuring is done fairly, as the college grows and changes its policies on financial aid, study-abroad and elsewhere.
- Social Life: The success of SAC's co-sponsorship has increased the opportunities for student initiatives. This, and other ways of empowering individual ideas must be further developed.
- Diversity: SGA must grow to meet an increasingly diverse student body, with its many changing concerns and needs. Ignoring this responsibility and all it entails would undermine everything I stand for.

It is essential that we bring together the many differing opinions to best represent students on these and many other issues. As J-Board Chair I have learned to listen to, understand, and unite diverse perspectives, while constantly re-evaluating priorities as conditions change. This experience, along with my experience on the SGA executive board, has prepared me to meet the challenges of the upcoming year.

Change to a mature body that represents students rather than itself has already begun, and should only continue. I believe I am the right person to lead this change, and I ask for your support to make it a reality.

Thank you for your time. Please call me at 3318 with any questions, concerns, ideas, or thoughts.

*Editor's note: This is Shedd's second official platform.

VOTE JOHN BIANCUR FOR SGA PRESIDENT!!! VOTE JOHN BIANCUR FOR SGA PRESIDENT!!! VOTE JOHN BIANCUR FOR SGA PRESIDENT!!!!!!VOTE JOHN BIANCUR FOR SGA PRESIDENT!!!!!!

Previous experience-

Judiciary Board Coordinator
Student Government Presidential Associate
Chair, Dining Services Committee
Chair, C-Book Revision Committee

Accomplishments include-

- the addition of a pasta/potato bar in Harris
- extended hours for the campus bar
- initiated revisions to the C-Book
- the declining balance system of \$40 per semester in the snack shop
- co-sponsor of the Yom Kippur Proposal
- initiated the use of guest meal passes in the snack shop

This past year has been a learning experience. I have had the proper training on both SGA Executive Board and on Assembly. We have made some large strides to make this campus a better place, yet more work does need to be done. The following ideas will allow the work to be done in the best way possible.

In the upcoming year, I hope to initiate a state wide coalition of colleges and universities in an effort to pool our resources to better solve problems that all colleges experience. The knowledge that other institutions have is valuable to us. We can only benefit from tapping into that knowledge. This would establish Conn as a leader among peer institutions and would guarantee that our concerns could be dealt with in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

I hope to better inform the campus community directly through e-mail, posters, and the Contact. This would allow the campus community to become better informed and more involved. People should not have to search for information, SGA should make it easily accessible.

Finally, I believe that SGA needs to return to basics. I will be always in contact with students, so that I can take care of student concerns first. SGA must be accessible, available, and dedicated to what the campus community wants. Too often SGA forgets its purpose. I will, along with the Executive Board and Assembly, ensure that the purpose of enacting legislation to better the lives of all students is upheld by SGA.

The time is right and the time is now. VOTE JOHN BIANCUR FOR SGA PRESIDENT!!! VOTE JOHN BIANCUR FOR SGA PRESIDENT!!!

For further information or questions please contact John @ X3525.

Kristin Page

for

Chair of Academic Affairs

The chair of Academic Affairs is a unique position. This person is responsible for articulating the concerns and views of the students regarding academic issues to the administration and faculty. At the same time, it is the goal of the chair to do everything in their power to ensure that students are provided the best possible academic atmosphere. It is, therefore, imperative that this person be a responsible, articulate individual with a strong sense of the issues that need to be addressed. As a rising senior with experiences in many different areas, I feel that I could effectively serve in this manner. I ask for your support. Thank you.

Platforms

Experience

"Experience" is the term that comes to mind when I think of what qualities a successful SGA vice-president must possess. Expediency in creating a student activities budget is important because clubs cannot solidify their plans for the year until they are told what their budget will look like. A vice-president who has previously experienced the budget process from all angles will be the vice-president who leads Finance Committee to rapidly produce a solid budget which the campus will whole-heartedly accept.

I have been a member of the Finance Committee since I came to Connecticut College almost two years ago. In that time, I have seen budgets passed and budgets failed. I have experienced what I would deem as good decision-making, and I have experienced what I would view as poor decision-making. Mistakes were definitely made over the past two years, but now, having been such an active part of the process, I am able to look back and learn from those mistakes. My ability to take a "historical perspective" will prevent repeating the errors which Finance Committee made in the past, and it will enable me to carefully consider revisions to the entire finance process. Having a "frame of reference" is not something that should be overlooked. It is the *ability* that ultimately separates a successful vice-president from a not-so-successful one.

The SGA vice-president's primary responsibilities are the financial process and serving as a liaison between the SGA Assembly and all student clubs and organizations on campus. The vice-president, however, also serves as a figurehead for the SGA Assembly and campus community as a whole. I have been an active leader on this campus and throughout my life, and I feel confident that I would be able to effectively assist the SGA president in leading this campus.

This piece of paper does not say everything, and I encourage you to contact me personally if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you very much for taking the time to read a little of what I have to say. I hope it will give you something to think about.

Telephone Number: 439-4890

E-Mail Address: dlkri@conncoll.edu

Damon Krieger for SGA Vice-President

Nicholas Smolansky Judiciary Board Chair

People might argue about the degree of importance the Honor Code plays on our campus. I am unable to gauge the feelings of the campus as a whole, so I will only discuss my own. I think ideally the honor code is a tool to foster a sense of community. It forces you to think of how your actions will effect those around you. Any infraction of the honor code you might commit will in some way damage the community that you have chosen to join by matriculating at this college. This college has many rules and regulations, but I would ask you to look past the letter of the law, and more towards the spirit of it. It is this spirit that I think can be found in the Honor Code.

This previous discussion of the Honor Code is the springboard to how I see the position of J-Board on this campus. The board is not a group of individuals who are out to bust students for underage drinking or smoking pot. We are concerned with students who do not act as responsible members of this community. In my opinion, the role of J-Board is to help these students learn to take responsibility for their actions. This is the first step in helping someone think about how their actions have effected those that they must live with. Once we get people to think, then the next time a person is put in a similar situation, the results may be different. If J-Board can do this, then I think it will have done its job. As chair, this would be my goal. Thank you.

Alex Cote Vice President

Initiative

I seek to ...

- Explore methods of increasing the Student Activities Fund, such as
 1. Investment (money from Senior Week could earn \$650 in interest)
 2. Raising the Activities Fee
 3. Explore more ways to encourage Club Sports to go Varsity
- Provide assistance to Treasurers, and insist that bad budgets be rewritten, so money is allocated according to the quality of the event, rather than the quality of the budget.
- Implement a deposit system for any club with individualized capital expenditures, such as clothing or protective gear, etc. This is being done with the Rugby Team now.
- Keep detailed inventories for any club with capital purchases.
- Involve clubs more in the allocation process, by requiring a prioritized budget, indicating which events are the most important to the club.
- Semesterize the budget process, so that:
 1. Money is more tightly controlled and wasted less often
 2. Clubs are budgeting only one semester in advance
 3. More money is available for investment
- Run SGA without Paper and use that success as a model for future paperless campus initiatives.

Commitment

I have done the following for the campus ...

- Worked to keep the Campus bar and the Oasis open until 1:30. This increases the safety of students and lessens the liability of the college by reducing off campus drinking and driving.
- Worked to have better food in the Oasis and Bar, to have table service in the bar, and have a bar menu Oasis foods.
- Sponsored the Yom Kippur proposal, which asked the administration to schedule no classes on Yom Kippur, the highest Jewish holiday.
- Worked on the creation of Chair of Residential Life, a new SGA Executive Board position, to reunite the Board of House Governors with SGA Assembly.
- Sponsored J-Board proposal, which allows the Coordinator and the Assistant to ask questions during hearings.
- Worked with the PR Committee and College Relations to get the Communicator printed in the Voice, to help publicize campus events.

Experience

- | | |
|---|--|
| House Senator for Blackstone | ISD (Dean's Term) Coordinating Committee |
| Alcohol Policy & Recommend. Comm. - Chair | Land Use Committee |
| SGA Public Relations Committee - Asst. Chair | SGA Telecommunications Committee |
| The College Voice - Viewpoint Editor | SGA Finance Committee |
| Teaching Assistant for Negotiation Workshop during Intensive Skills Development (Dean's Term) | |

Ted Svehlik for SAC Chair

I am running for the position of SAC Chair because I believe that it is time for SAC to create new and innovative programs in order to stimulate the social life on this campus. If I am elected SAC Chair, I will be dedicated to augmenting existing "traditional" activities such as Floralia and the Winter Formal, while also infusing unique weekly events into the school's social calendar.

For year, Connecticut College has relied mostly on large traditional events to promote a strong social life on campus. Activities like Harvest Fest and Floralia are created as "big weekend" events, while for the rest of the year we are basically forced to either stand around kegs or watch outdated movies because there is simply nothing else interesting and fun to do. I want to strengthen the social life on campus and here are some of the ways that I will do it:

- **Create theme weekends.** For example, one weekend might be designated as Dorm Olympic Weekend and would be filled with crazy inter-dorm competitions for prizes.
- **Create More late-night activities.** This would include things like midnight basketball tournaments, all-night movie festivals, and midnight comedy shows. There is genuinely a need for activities which start and end later than 11:00 at night.
- **Create a spirit organization as a sub-branch of SAC.** The job of this group would be to boost campus morale by supporting athletic teams, creating campus traditions, etc.
- **Promote intra-dorm.** Things like dorm study breaks, dorm assassin, and dorm game nights are important weekday events which help break up the rigors of academics and also help dorm members bond.
- **Create unique events.** It is time to try some new stuff like casino nights, bungi-jumping on the Harkness Green, a Velcro wall party, and a real homecoming weekend (rather than the foolish thing we now call homecoming).
- **Push for improvements to Cro.** Cro is supposed to be a student union where people can gather together and hang out. Instead it is a sterile environment which is completely uncondusive to social activities and gatherings. Cro definitely needs more games, a big screen TV, and other stuff to make it more "homey".
- **Improve traditional events.** Many of the traditional events have become stale over the years. We must put the life back into them!
- **Promote movies.** SAC needs to ensure that current popular movies are shown at Conn. on a regular basis. If the Film Society or other organizations do not wish to fill this void, then SAC must.

To put it simply, I want to ensure that there are enough activities on campus so that if you are bored on a Saturday night, it is by choice, not necessity. There is no reason that you should settle for less!

If you support my ideas for improving the social life on this campus, the I respectfully ask for your vote on April 12th and 13th. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at x3611.

Platforms

Deirdre Hennessey for Young Alumni Trustee

Institutional pride and a strong belief in the values of this college are essential in a Young Alumni Trustee. I would dedicate myself to not only preserving the many things that Conn has to offer, but ensuring the advancement of the college as we enter the Twenty-First Century.

As YAT, my goal would be to act as a liaison to facilitate and motivate the student body and the Trustees to work together for the common good of the college. I am confident in my ability to work with a variety of different people. I also have had a great deal of experience in standing up for issues I have found important, being confident, while being respectful of others. One example is my effort to fail the budget at the all-campus referendum which resulted in a huge increase in the amount of money allocated to the Senior Class.

For the past four years serving as Class President, Class Vice President, J-Board Representative, Senator, and in many other roles, I have consistently made promises to my constituents and have always followed through. My commitment and performance over the past four years speaks for itself. As YAT, I would be as dedicated as ever, working hard to learn as much as I can, frequenting Conn as I will be living close by, and remaining true to the college as an active and motivated Trustee.

As long as there are people who believe in Connecticut College and will work to improve it, there is a very bright future ahead. I will be a strong Trustee, tempering the importance of long-term successes with the short term sacrifices that often accompany important decisions. I guarantee that the Trustees will be clearly informed of the impact new policies could have on the student body before any decisions are made.

I am seeking the chance to show my appreciation for all of the opportunities that Conn has given to me and to my peers. Although I have been working to do this over the past four years, I feel that I can contribute much more to the college serving as Young Alumni Trustee. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at ext. 4066 or in Knowlton 217. Thank you very much for your consideration.

BENTYRRELL
YAT

As the college embarks on its second 5 year Strategic Plan and the beginning of the Capital Campaign the position of YAT will be vital to insure that important student issues are not ignored or left unaddressed. The role of the YAT as a connection to the student body and the issues they are facing and concerned about is a key. I believe that the experience I have gained over my four years provides me with an insight to help lead the college to achieve the goals it has set for itself, without sacrificing the needs of current, future and past students.

EXPERIENCE

SAC Chair- In this position I was able to work with students, administration and staff to gain insight into the social life on campus and the needs facing the college community as social life changes.

SGA Exec. Board- Through the Student/Trustee Liaison committee I had the opportunity to work with trustees and gain an understanding of the issues currently facing the campus. Through Exec. Board I worked with all three current YATs and learned what their role and job entails and what is necessary for a YAT to provide the best leadership.

ISSUES

Strategic Plan- As the college starts this initiative the needs of students must be kept in mind. The goals to increase diversity and the financial strength of the college are issues which have immediate effects for students on campus. Insuring that these issues are dealt with and that the needs of students are being met is essential.

Dorm Renovations- This issue will impact all students on campus in the next 10 years and for decades after. The plans to redesign the plex are key to the college moving effectively into the next century. The buildings must be equipped to provide for the next generation of students not simply the current needs. As a member of SGA Exec. and being active in student life as SAC Chair I have been able to follow this issue and hope to continue that in the next three years as the renovations become a reality.

Capital Campaign- The effort to increase the financial strength of the college is a central point of the new Strategic Plan. This campaign to raise over \$100 million will help insure the college can continue to survive, meet its goals and continue the dedication to providing quality financial aid and keeping the cost of college affordable.

If you have any questions please call me at ext. 3964

Wesley Simmons for Young Alumni Trustee

This year Connecticut College has begun the first year implementation of A Time to Lead II, the second Strategic Plan. This plan charts a course for the college for the next five years and will be instrumental in making sure that Conn continues to be a first rate institution. In a time when the economy and rising costs are forcing small liberal arts colleges to make hard choices, we must assume the lead and plan for the future. In doing so we must also ensure that the student voice is heard. It is easy, when planning for the future, to forget those who are here, in the present.

I have served as a student member on four committees which make important decisions about the future of the college, the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee, the Financial Strategic Planning Team, the Strategic Planning Team for Technology, and the Social Responsibility Committee. It is on committees such as these where tough decisions are made, decisions which set the course of the college. These positions have given me much insight into how Conn works and how to plan for its future. I have also worked towards the future of the college as a member of the Intensive Skills Development/Deans Term Coordinating Committee. I feel that making distinctive programs such as this part of Conn will be essential in continuing to attract and retain top quality students.

The Young Alumni Trustee must not only keep their eyes on the future, they must also stay in touch with student issues. I have been committed to student government since freshman year and have served in many capacities. In my roles as a Senator and as an Executive Board member I have worked with many important student issues and presented them to the faculty, administration, and trustees. I believe that the student voice must remain strong and that the Young Alumni Trustee is an important conduit for ensuring that the trustees hear that voice. I have been an advocate for student issues here at Conn during my time as a student and I would remain one as Young Alumni Trustee.

During my time at Conn I have worked for both the future of the institution and for the concerns of the students. I have had to make tough decisions concerning both, and I am prepared to continue make those decisions. It is an uncertain time for small liberal arts colleges; in the past few years we have had to make some difficult choices and we will have to do so in the coming years. It is important that the Young Alumni Trustee be someone who has the experience and vision to keep Connecticut College at the forefront in higher education.

SENIORS

- As a **Co-Chair** for the **Minority Student Steering Committee (MSSC)** last year, I met with the **Trustees** on a quarterly basis to discuss the issues of students of color.

- Last year, I, in partnership with a SGA Senator, led the initiative to determine student sentiment regarding **reinvestment in South Africa**. We formulated a **proposal** which **unanimously passed** in MSSC and SGA. We then **presented our findings** to the **Board of Trustees**.

- For the past three years, I have acted as **Chair** of the **Everywoman's Center Advisory Board**, a group of students, faculty, staff, and administrators which meets monthly to address issues pertaining to women. I also act as a member of the **Collective**, the executive board of the Everywoman's Center. As such, I organize campus-wide activities, facilitate networking, and fundraising.

- As **Political Chair** for the **Society Organized Against Racism** and as an active **member** of the **MSSC general body** during my sophomore year, I made presentations to the **Trustees** about Faculty Hiring and Financial Aid Retention. I **chaired subcommittees** regarding these two issues.

I HAVE THE **EXPERIENCE** OF WORKING AS A **LIAISON** BETWEEN STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND TRUSTEES.

I HAVE THE **DRIVE** TO PERFORM EXCELLENTLY.

PRIYA MATHUR
WRITE IN FOR YOUNG ALUMNI
TRUSTEE
YAT

Platforms

Young Alumni Trustee

When I was first accepted to Connecticut College I knew relatively little about the school. I had a picture in my mind what my home for the next four years would be like ideally, but I was yet to find a school that fit that image. I started reading anything about the Conn that I could find. Every time I found out something about Conn I realized that it was exactly what I was looking for; my abstract image of what college should be began to become a reality. After touring the campus when it was thirty-five degrees and raining, I fell in love with it. I figured that if I liked it in this weather, imagine what it must be like in the spring! Needless to say, I was not disappointed. Conn has been everything that I hoped college would be.

Freshman year I wasn't involved in much beyond intramurals, but as the year ended I realized that I wanted a piece of the action. Before I knew it I was extremely involved. I joined Class Council, chairing the Class Community Service Committee, I served on the Study Abroad Advisory Committee, and was a Campus Tour Guide, to name a few of my activities. I have really enjoyed being involved in this school, I have found it exciting, and rewarding being a part of the decisions that are made on this campus, and would like to continue to do so as a Young Alumni Trustee.

As Housefellow this year I have gained a much better understanding of how this school works and what it takes to get things done. I have also had the opportunity to build working relationships with many of the administrators, acting as a liaison between them and the students. I see this type of liaison as an important part of the position of YAT as well, and it would therefore be an easy transition from Housefellow. Having been involved in residential life will also provide me with an important perspective as the Plex is renovated, something I want to see done right.

As a member of the Senior Pledge Steering Committee I helped to raise over twenty thousand dollars for the annual fund, by far the most any senior class has raised to date. I now know what is involved in raising money for the school, a very important part of serving on the Board of Trustees, insuring that the programs that make this school unique continue to get funding.

As our class Young Alumni Trustee I will do my best to see that this school continues to be the place that I had pictured in my mind, and was lucky enough to attend, so that others may benefit as I have. I would appreciate your vote.

Thank you.

Dan Towvim

Robert G. Erda for

Young Alumni Trustee

I am optimistic about the future of Connecticut College. As I prepare to leave Conn after four exceptionally great years, I realize how important it is for me to be able to express the ideas and visions that my classmates and I have about the future of Connecticut College. Being elected the Young Alumni Trustee would give me the opportunity to work towards a better future for our college.

There are several important attributes that make an excellent YAT. I have experience in all of these key areas:

- I understand how to work with adult groups and gain their respect. As a newly elected YAT it is vital to build a rapport with the Board of Trustees so they will gain the respect of my ideas and opinions.

- I have been involved in all aspects of student life at Connecticut. As a varsity captain, dorm governor, active class member, four year school leader, executive board member and legacy, I have a sound idea of where Connecticut College is today and where it needs to be to continually improve into the future.

- I have practical understanding of how businesses are run. A YAT needs to understand what is realistic, what makes sense and how time frames influence decisions and outcomes.

- As YAT, it is important to make decisions that make sense over the long run. I have the ability to weigh the effects of important changes into the future. A YAT must think past tomorrow to understand the future when making decisions.

- I understand how to represent my class to the Board of Trustees. As a four year elected leader, I understand the importance of voicing the opinion of those people that I represent. I would like the opportunity to represent you to the Board of Trustees.

I believe that these are the five most important attributes for a YAT. As a well rounded student taking part in all levels of College activities and pursuing interests outside of Connecticut College, I have developed the skills that make me a strong Young Alumni Trustee candidate for the class of 1995.

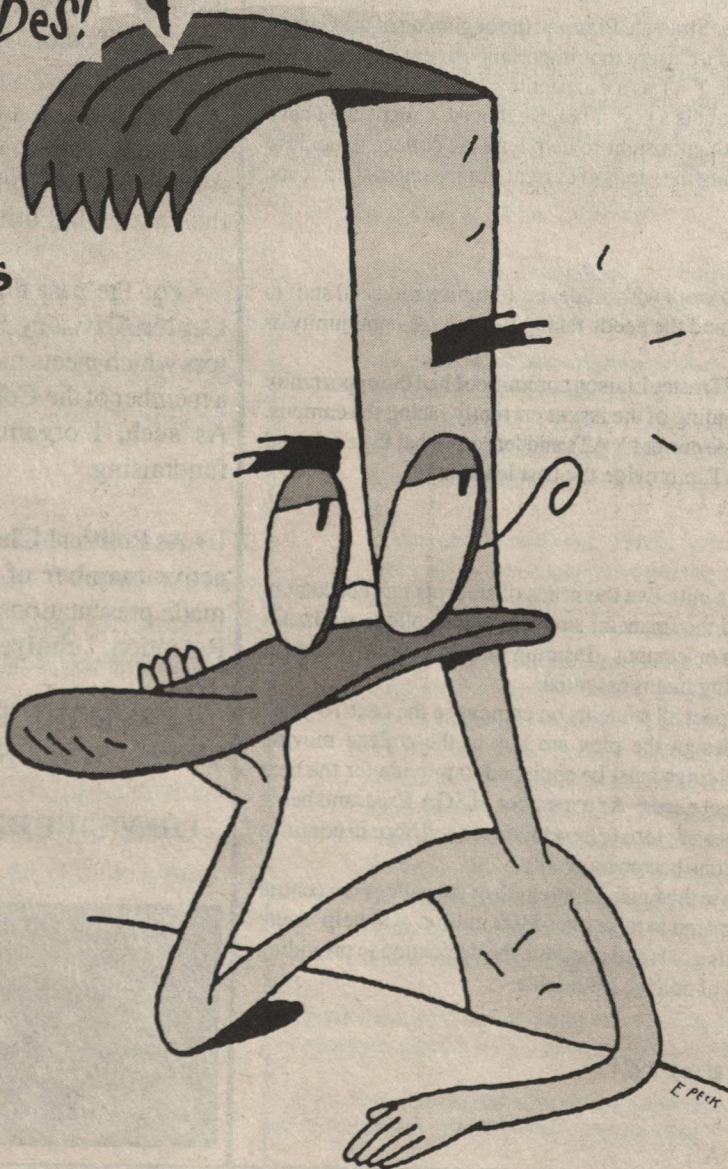
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Speech Coverage

Eager candidates make up for lack of numbers in Executive Board Elections

BY NATALIE HILDT
Features Editor

While the positions of J-Board chair, PR director, SAC chair and chair of academic affairs are uncontested in the upcoming Student Government Association Executive Board elections, candidates still fielded some tough questions on speech night.

Kristen Page was the first to take the stage in Tuesday's exhibition. If elected to the position of chair of academic affairs, Page cited the three main issues she would address as the changes in gen ed requirements, standardized professor evaluations, and an enhanced peer tutoring system.

"Gen eds shouldn't be an annoyance, and for some students they can be," Page said, adding that she supports the new gen ed requirements which involve the elimination of the Area Eight requirement. "The number of classes required to graduate has gone down, which is a good thing," Page said. She also thought that being able to Pass/Not Pass on one gen ed requirement is a good idea.

As far as the tutoring, Page said, "I work as an organic chemistry student, and it's something I enjoy. I'd like to get tutoring to more of the students. They don't realize it's free of charge."

Although she said that course evaluations are an important part of academics at Connecticut College, Page acknowledged that it is hard to evaluate tenured professors. She said that although it is difficult to take effective action, she was once in a class that was able to remove a professor from the tenure track.

Ryan Poirier, SGA vice president, questioned the candidate on her feelings about compensation for student leaders in the form of credits. This is an idea that is currently being investigated by the administration.

"My feeling initially was no," Page said, when asked if she favored the notion. "As chair of academic affairs, I probably wouldn't pursue it. Students shouldn't be looking for

compensation, they should be doing it for their own desire to help the school," she said

Nick Smolansky, currently the coordinator for J Board, feels that the spirit behind the Honor Code is important to the fabric of the community. "It may not be able to change people, but it may help them to think," Smolansky said. "Maybe I'm too hopeful, but if I were a student up before J Board, I'd rather have my hope than someone more cynical."

Because of the policy of confidentiality, which keeps secret what occurs during J Board trials and deliberations, the degree of accountability of the J Board to the student body is often questioned. April Ondis, Editor in Chief of *The College Voice*, asked Smolansky how he would keep students more informed about the process, and how he feels about confidentiality as a protective measure. So far, the J-Board Log has only been printed once this year. Ideally, Smolansky said, it should be printed in the *Voice* at least once every six weeks.

"The Log should be printed out more regularly; that's one of the few checks," he said, adding later that "there really isn't a good check on J Board."

"I think the system is flawed," he said, "but it has to stay that way." He then challenged anyone to devise another type of check on the Board without compromising confidentiality.

Eden Savino of *Voice Radio News* questioned Smolansky on how the J Board handles drug offenders. "I would argue vehemently against suspending a person for smoking pot," he said. He added that in addition to imposing punitive measures such as dining services hours on offenders, the Board should also consider referring students to Counseling Services.

On a related note, Dan Shedd, current J Board Chair, asked his coordinator if he feels student leaders should be held to a

higher standard than other students. "We're all living under the Honor Code at this school, and ideally we should all be treated equally," Smolansky said. At the same time, he said that "those of us running for student leadership should keep in mind the ramifications of our actions."

One of the final issues discussed with Smolansky was that of chair appointees questioning students brought before the board. Traditionally, the assistant to the chair and the coordinator have been silenced during trials, and do not hold the right to vote on them. This year, the SGA Assembly voted to allow the appointees the power to question. "I think it definitely improves the effectiveness of the Board," Smolansky said. "More information can't hurt, it can only help you."

Next up to bat was Ted Svelik, the lone candidate for the position of SAC Chair. Svelik has great vision for quality of student life on this campus. As chair, he plans to initiate new and innovative programs and give students more fun activities. "We need to establish some school traditions and it's SAC's job to do that," Svelik said.

He said he would like to see more late night activities, suggesting things like midnight movie fests and sports tournaments. "It all ends at 11 p.m.," he said vowing to change that so students have more to do. "I want to bring some new ideas, and some of them are pretty crazy," Svelik said, sighting a Velcro wall party and bungee jumping on Harkness Green as two of his zanier schemes.

"I'd like to create a spirit organization within SAC," Svelik said, using sports rallies as an example. The candidate also talked about the new and improved Castle Court Cinema. If nothing else, students should be able to stay on campus to see a movie if they want to, he said.

"There's no reason the social life on this campus shouldn't be great," said the enthusiastic candidate, promising to make it that

way. "Or I'll die trying," he concluded.

As Svelik fielded questions, the newly instituted Co-Sponsorship Fund, in which clubs may apply through SAC to receive extra funding when they choose to sponsor events together, was on everyone's lips. "Next year I will push for more Co-Sponsorship funds. It was very successful this year. Clubs need money and help and support."

When asked how he would implement these ideas, Svelik said that he would need a good Executive Board to delegate authority and good management. The SAC chair needs to sit down with different clubs and plan out a calendar."

Lastly, Svelik spoke about the Coffee Ground space and the idea of the Camel Club in relation to Crozier-Williams. "I think more of a hospital than of a student union." He proposes to make the building more homey and appealing with things like rugs, more games, and a big-screen TV. "I think the Camel Club is essential. There needs to be some staple activities on this campus," Svelik concluded.

Jesse Roberts, incumbent PR Director, was the last of the unchallenged candidates to take the mic. With a short but sweet speech, Roberts told the audience of all his qualifying experience for the Executive Board position. "I'd like to improve the methods of communication," Roberts said, citing the SGA newsletter and more contact sessions with senators and their dorms as ways to reach the community.

Roberts said he is concerned about the degree of student participation in their own governance. "This year, we did not receive quorum in one junior J Board election." Although he joked about the path of colored paper feet he cut out to lead juniors to the voting table in the student center, he said that the lack of interest is very discouraging to him. "I'm not sure how we can increase people's desire to vote," Roberts said. "But I'm willing to take suggestions."

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Experts to address stigma of depression

By CYNTHIA PIZZUTO
The College Voice
&
By LINA ZIURYS
Head Copy Editor

Although 20-25 percent of people age 18-25 have experienced some sort of depression, few people are aware of the causes of depressive disorders or what they can do to combat mental illness and the social stigma attached to it. Through open, candid discussion and dissemination of facts rather than rumors, people can begin to understand themselves, their colleagues, and their friends.

On Wednesday, April 26, a presentation regarding the illnesses of clinical and manic depression will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hood Dining Room.

Dr. Amit Anand and Dr. Mike Sernyak, both experts from Yale University, will speak on the subject of depressive disorders. Dr. Anand is the medical director of the Affective Disorders Unit at West Haven VA Hospital and a faculty member at Yale University. Dr. Sernyak is a professor of psychiatry at Yale University and an expert on manic-depressive illness. Both doctors will be speaking on these disorders which affect over twenty

million people in the United States.

A representative from the Connecticut Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a non-profit organization in Hartford, will also speak. She will share her personal experiences with manic depressive illness, illustrating that individuals with mental illnesses appear no different from the average, "normal" person. CAMI officials say she is an articulate and highly intelligent educator who will "help to reduce the stigma against people with mental illnesses."

Dr. Anand will be addressing the neurobiological basis of these disorders. Lou Carter, organizer of the event and member of the Counseling Services Committee, claims this "will help explain how depressive illnesses are often biologically and genetically based rather than a result of a lack of enthusiasm for life." Dr. Sernyak will speak on psychopharmacological drugs and their applications to these illnesses, explaining how genetics play a role in the issue.

Carter says that the purpose of this presentation is to educate the community about these illnesses and to decrease the stigma against those who suffer from depression. Since college-age students are so commonly affected by depressive disorders, this is a relevant and important topic for Connecticut College students.

A Consortium on the Illness of Depression

*An examination of the stigma associated with Mental Illness in the
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including explanations of the biological and genetic factors affecting
Clinical Depression and Manic Depressive Illness*

Among our list of speakers:

Dr. Mike Sernyak

- Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University
- Expert in the field of Manic Depressive Illness

Dr. Amit Anand

- Medical Director at the Affective Disorders Unit of the West Haven VA Hospital
- Faculty member at Yale University
- Expert on the neurobiology of depression

Representatives from the Connecticut Alliance for the Mentally Ill CAMI provides :

- vocational, social and financial rehabilitation
- continuity of medical treatment and care
- assistance and security for patients who have difficulty coping



Join them on Wednesday, April 26
at 7:00 pm
in the Hood Dining Room

**PATTY DUKE, WINSTON CHURCHILL, EUGENE O'NEILL, TENNESSEE WILLIAMS,
ISAAC NEWTON, SYLVIA PLATH, LEO TOLSTOY, MICHELANGELO, CHARLES DICKENS,
VIRGINIA WOOLF, VIVIEN LEIGH, BRIAN WILSON, BEETHOVEN, KATHLEEN
CRONKITE, TED TURNER, ABRAHAM LINCOLN
ARE AMONG THE MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO SUFFER FROM GENETIC
DEPRESSIVE ILLNESSES**

Speech Coverage

YAT candidates speak in Coffee Grounds

By NATALIE HILDT
Features Editor

The five official Young Alumni Trustee candidates gathered together in an uncrowded Coffee Ground last Wednesday night to speak on their experiences as Conn students and on their plans for the college as alumni.

Wes Simmons, who has had experience on the SGA Executive Board, SGA Assembly, and on several college committees, including the Financial Strategic Planning Team and the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee, said he sees the college's most important task in the coming years as the need to distinguish itself as an institution.

He sees the new Strategic Plan as a foundation which will propel the college toward a ranking in the top-25 of *U.S. News and World Report*. "I have a vision for the college," he said. "I know where it should go, and where it has been."

In terms of the college's continuing budget restructuring, he said "It is always easier to create than destroy. . . But you need to make sacrifices of old programs in order

to make room for more effective ones."

Ben Tyrrell, current SAC chair, cited recent changes the college has made to strengthen itself in terms of implementing more rigorous admissions policies, and erecting and renovating facilities such as Olin, the Athletic Center, and Cro.

Students, especially the Young Alumni Trustee, said Tyrrell, need to be aware of the ways in which the new Strategic Plan and the new Capitol Campaign of the Development Office can affect the future, and need to take a leadership role on the Board in terms of articulating where current and future students need the plan to go.

The candidates responded to questions from panelists as well as from audience members. One question raised was how the college should meet the needs of the increasingly diverse student body.

Tyrrell responded that quality, staple activities which bring the campus together need to be launched. Simmons said that the college should continue to invest in technology in the classrooms, an initiative in the Strategic Plan which

he believes would make the college appear more rigorous and desirable to prospective students of all backgrounds.

Deirdre Hennessey, senior class president and YAT candidate, asserted that creating a better intellectual life on campus would improve its desirability to all students, and enhance their college experience. She suggested that increasing communication between faculty and students and building new traditions would help to achieve this goal.

Asked about their sense of the role of the YAT, most responded that they feel it is appropriate to have more contact with students than merely returning for the Board meetings four times a year.

"I'm not going to be in Cairo," said Tyrrell. He went on to say that the YATs are responsible for communicating to students what the perception of the Board is on various issues, in order to better enable student leaders to know how to present their concerns, in terms of "choosing their battles" without losing the respect of the Board.

The Capitol Campaign, according to Tyrrell, is far and away the

most important factor in the college's future, because without building the college's endowment students cannot build and maintain the quality of life and academics of the school.

Simmons emphasized the fact that the Board holds many possibilities for leadership to the YATs, including service on committees and subcommittees which accomplish work between Board meetings. Erda said he would bring his knowledge of student issues such as the dorm renovations to the Board.

"Being a YAT means bringing issues to the Board," said Hennessey. "And knowing what's going on here means coming back more than four times a year."

She went on to say that she believed she would be living in Massachusetts for the next couple of years. She would have the opportunity and desire to return to campus not only for the Board meetings and important SGA meetings, but also for other significant meetings and events, she said, citing the contact sessions organized by Arthur Ferrari, interim dean of the college, on the recent racist and homopho-

nic graffiti.

"We need to talk the talk as well as walk the walk," said Erda. He discussed the excellence of the college now, emphasizing its strong sports teams, "unbelievably strong student government" and unique Honor Code.

Dan Towvim blames a lot of the campus' low morale on a lack of school spirit, which he believes has declined since the school went co-ed.

Said Towvim, "I'm not entirely up to date on every issue of student concern, but next year, that will be my job." He said that he would be concerned not only with ethnic and cultural diversity, but also with socioeconomic diversity at the college.

Hennessey said that raising money is extremely important to the college, because, without it, the college cannot hope to attract top-quality faculty. At the same time, she said, morale needs to be raised about the strengths that Conn already has, so that students can take pride in their programs.

SGA presidential candidates debate on television

By EDEN SAVINO
The College Voice

In the college's first televised debate, the candidates in this year's three-way race for SGA president engaged in a lively discussion of their differences and similarities, as well as of the big issues facing student government today, in a forum organized by The College Voice Publishing Group last Thursday. The debate was broadcast live by Eastern Connecticut Cable.

The candidates in this year's presidential race are John Biancur, William Intner and Dan Shedd. The debate became heated at points to the extent that one of the candidates asked for the "bickering" to come to an end. Despite some chaotic moments, all questions posed by

the panelists were answered fully.

Following a series of questions to be answered by all three candidates, each candidate was given a question pertinent only to their personal leadership history.

Last year, John Biancur held the position of Judiciary Board coordinator, an appointed position that includes acting as J Board treasurer. According to last year's J Board chair, the Board requested \$700 from the Student Organizations Fund for "dinner and gifts" last May as part of an end of the year celebration.

The check request for the funds, submitted by Biancur, was denied by Student Organizations Fund on the grounds that "dinner and gifts" are not enough to justify such a large amount of money. Sara

Spoonheim, former J Board chair, admitted last year that the Board had originally thought of eating at Bravo Bravo.

During the televised debate, Biancur was asked to comment on the check request. Noting that he had been "directed to take out the check request" he said he did not view the request as inappropriate at the time because he was trained only in the secretarial aspect of his position, not as an organization treasurer. Biancur added that the Board had never definitively decided on going to Bravo Bravo.

The Board, after being informed of the Student Organization Fund's policy of keeping the cost of meals to \$10 a head, ultimately ate at the Recovery Room.

Shedd, class of 1996 J Board

representative last year and current chair, was asked to comment on the check request. He said that the request was a mistake and that he thought it was inappropriate for the Board to use its surplus to go to dinner at Bravo Bravo.

Shedd also responded to questions about his past use of marijuana. In response to the question of whether he had ever broken the Honor Code, he answered "Yes, I have smoked pot, quite a bit, and I regret it, but I never inhaled." He said that he made the decision to stop smoking marijuana on campus when he decided to run for chair of J Board.

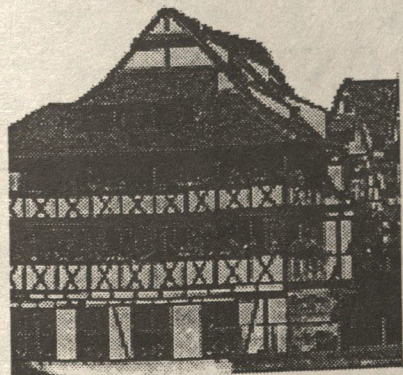
William Intner answered a question on his leadership style focused on his actions during the dismantling of the Philip Goldberg Internship Committee. The individual who donated funding for the Committee, which established an internship at the Everywoman's Center and in women's issues in the local community, pulled funding from the committee this year in order to direct his gift to the college in another area.

The Committee, which did not have enough money in its account to support an intern from the beginning of the year, was not disbanded until February, according to Jesse Roberts, SGA PR director.

Intner had been chair of the Committee last year, and while it was not he who motioned to table the proposal to disband the committee, which had only a few hundred dollars left in its account, he said that he supported the move to keep open discussion on the Committee because he was concerned about issues of legality when working with monetary gifts. He maintained that he was not responsible for dragging out the process as he never made any parliamentary motions with regard to the Committee, although he acknowledged that he feels attention to detail in cases such as this one is warranted. In response to whether he feels he is difficult to work with, he responded that he believes a "balance between working within the rules and getting things done" must be struck to be most productive.

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A DIFFERENCE!**